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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the Year 1946.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
"D" Housing.
"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.
"F" Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books	2,277
Rateable Value	£104,580
Sum represented by one Penny Rate	£425
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1946)	9,069

Vital Statistics for the area:—

Live Births.	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	165	91	74
Illegitimate	18	10	8
Total	183	101	82

The Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 20.1 for the Urban District.

The Birth rate for England and Wales was 19.1 for the same period.

Still Births.	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	3	2	1

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population was 0.33.

The Still Birth rate for England and Wales was 0.53 for the same period.

Deaths.

Total	*Male*	*Female*
102	54	48

The death rate was 11.2 per 1,000 estimated population.

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5 per 1,000 population.

Maternal Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was 5.3.

Maternal Mortality Rate in England and Wales for the same period was 1.43.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	7	6	1
Illegitimate	2	–	2
Total	9	6	3

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 49.

The Infantile Mortality for the same period for England and Wales was 43.

Death from Cancer (all ages)	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	Nil

The above figures are corrected to include residents of the Urban District only.

Causes of Death.

	Males	*Females*
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	–	2
Cancer	8	11
Diabetes	–	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	5
Heart Disease	16	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	–
Digestive Diseases	1	–
Maternal Causes	–	1
Nephritis	1	–
Premature Birth, Congenital Diseases and Malformations	3	–
Road Traffic Accidents	2	–
Violence	4	3
Other Causes	2	4
Total	54	48

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Services. Laboratory facilities are provided at the County Laboratory in Worcester.

Ambulance Services. Ambulance facilities are provided by the Council's Ambulance, lent by the British Red Cross Society, and a rota of volunteer drivers and attendants.

During the year, 171 calls were dealt with.

Hospitals. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district with maternity beds, 12 beds in the general wards and 6 private wards beds are available.

Cases admitted during the year	435
Women delivered	430
Infants born alive	429
Infants stillborn	11
Infant deaths	11
Maternal deaths	2
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	8
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. 4 cases of Infectious Disease from the Stourport Urban District were admitted during the year.

Cases of Tuberculosis requiring treatment are admitted to Knightwick Sanatorium.

Cases of Venereal Disease can be treated at the following Hospitals:

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Guest Hospital, Dudley.
Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

Nursing in the Home. This Service is provided by the Stourport and Wilden District Nursing Association, which employs three Nurses and the Astley and Areley Kings District Nursing Association, which employs one Nurse, all of whom are midwives. In addition to their duties as district nurse midwives, their duties as Health Visitors under the County Council include attendance at School Medical inspections and the treatment of minor ailments in the schools, visits to cases of tuberculosis and mental defectives, regular visits to infants and children under five in their homes and attendance at ante-natal clinics and Infant Welfare Centres.

Clinics. Stourport—The County Council's Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, in charge of Dr.MacArthur and Dr. Mackie.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Friday in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Home. Children under five are immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic.

Areley Kings—The County Council's Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. E. M. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons in the month.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. Samples were taken frequently for analysis during the year and gave satisfactory results.

A small number of dwelling houses in Wilden and the Titton area derive their water supply from shallow wells.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the Sewage Works throughout the year.

A number of pail closets in Wilden and Areley Kings were converted to the water carriage system during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year much attention was given to the problem of atmospheric pollution, particularly in view of the fact that a large extension to the Stourport Electric Power Station was being built.

The nuisance of grit in the vicinity of the Power Station had been complained of on many occasions, and it was thought that sulphur fumes also might be emitted from the Power Station or factory chimneys in sufficient concentration to have a damaging effect on surrounding vegetation.

Several large authorities, who were thought to have similar problems, were consulted, and finally the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was asked by the Council if it would carry out measurements of atmospheric pollution in the district similar to those being made in other areas. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was unable to extend these measurements to the Stourport area, but Dr. A. R. Meetham, Superintendent of Observations at the Department, gave much helpful advice about certain measurements of atmospheric pollution which could be taken in the district by the Health Department. It was decided that these tests and measurements should be taken regularly, and it is hoped that valuable information will thus be made available and that more effective control of atmospheric pollution will be possible in the future.

SECTION "D"

Housing.

The Council's programme for the erection of new houses was proceeded with during the year.

Building was in progress throughout the year on the Walshes Farm Estate, though no permanent houses were completed by the end of the year.

During the year, twenty temporary prefabricated houses of the Tarran type were erected and occupied on the Council's site in Martley Road, and the preparation of a site in Wilden for the erection of 66 permanent prefabricated houses of the "Orlit" type was proceeded with.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year 1946:

Number of Council Houses in the District... ...	403
Number of Houses requisitioned by the Council ...	9
Number of applicants for Council Houses	709
Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings	429
Total number of persons represented on the application list	2330

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This work was carried out as usual during the year.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 14 samples of Milk, and 22 samples of other foods were taken for analysis during the year. These were found to be satisfactory.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows:

1. Pre-School Children	106
2. School Children	31
Total	137

At the end of 1946, the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0–5 and 5–15 years were 58% and 83% respectively.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.
No deaths from diphtheria occurred during the year
} One of these cases had been immunised.

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in the following table.

Disease.	*Total Cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths.*
Diphtheria	2	2	–
Erysipelas	4	–	–
Scarlatina	2	1	–
Scarlet Fever	2	1	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	–
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	4	–	–
Dysentery	1	–	–
Measles	7	–	–
Whooping Cough ...	17	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	8	8	–

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and over	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS	1	2	–	–	–	2	–	–

I am,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year, 670 visits of inspection and re-inspection were paid to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations, in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but great difficulty was again experienced in getting work done owing to the very great shortage of labour and materials.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Details of the various notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous year's inspections, the supply of disinfectant has been continued and no special matter arose in connection with this matter.

Refuse Scavenging.

This work has been again carried out by the Council's workmen and the details of the work is as follows:

Dry Refuse.		*Liquid Refuse.*	
Dust Bins emptied	100,175	Cesspools emptied	140
Loads removed	918	Middens emptied	38
		Pails emptied	15,840
		Loads removed	719

The refuse has been disposed of by tipping. and special attention has been given to the destruction of rats and flies there from time to time as the necessity arose.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

Canal Boats.

All the boats inspected were found to be satisfactory and there were no infringements of the regulations. No infectious diseases were notified, neither was any case of illness met with amongst the occupants. There were no applications for registration received during the year and no other matter arose to which it was necessary to draw the Council's attention.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The following are the details of the materials collected and disposed of during the year:

	Tons	*Cwts.*
Waste Paper	51	16
Tins and Light Scrap	9	13
Rags	4	8
Bottles	9	8
Bones	—	14
Rope and String	—	11

The value of the above was £456 18s. 0d.

Drainage and Closet Conversion.

The work was again proceeded with and further improvements in the sanitary conditions in the Areley Kings and Wilden areas were the result. The number of houses drained to cesspools, and the number of pail closets and privy middens are being steadily reduced.

Water Supply.

The consumption of water for all purposes as recorded by the meters at Mount Pleasant during the year was 182,871,000 gallons. This was a decrease of 329,000 gallons as compared with the previous year.

A further 19 houses and other premises were connected to the mains. The supply continued to be of excellent quality and no shortage was experienced neither was it necessary to impose any restrictions.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

L. H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

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